

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

USE EXCLUSION

(Acre)

CODE 472

DEFINITION

Excluding animals, people or vehicles from an area.

PURPOSES

To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area to maintain or improve the quantity and quality of natural resources or minimize liability and human health concerns.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all land uses where permanent or temporary use exclusion is needed.

CRITERIA

Barriers shall consist of either natural and/or artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences, gates, electronic and sonic devices, or signs.

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals or people and not be a safety hazard.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purposes.

To prevent accidents, and minimize liability, all barriers that block roads or paths must be marked with bright reflective paint or signs.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

This standard is not to be used as a substitute for the Fence (382) standard, when a fence is a required component of a management system.

CONSIDERATIONS

Potential landowner and user liability should be assessed before installing barriers.

Public use may be an issue in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.

Barrier type and design should account for and minimize impact to wildlife health and animal movement.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation. The use of approved job sheets is encouraged where available.

Minimum documentation for this practice includes:

- Type of structure
- Statement requiring compliance with all federal, state, and local laws
- Operation and maintenance requirements
- Appropriate drawing or job sheet that provides design criteria.

Note: Specifications for a standard pipe gate and drop post with locking pin are attached. Additional anchoring of "dead man" or "railroad track" type will further strengthen the gate.

When using a fence with Use Exclusion, see the standard for Fence (Code 382).

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed.

Management of barriers should provide for public safety activities such as fire control.

<p>Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.</p>
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